



Randall Williams, M.D.  
State Health Director

Daniel Staley  
Division Director

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Dear North Carolina Medical Society Member,

We are pleased to provide to you the 2016 North Carolina Division of Public Health Report to the North Carolina Medical Society. This report is organized based on the state's Healthy North Carolina 2020 (HNC 2020) Objectives. It does not address all forty HNC 2020 Objectives, but rather focuses on those which are most frequently selected by our communities in their Community Health Needs Assessments completed every three or four years.

The report also highlights some emerging health issues, such as the growing incidence of Hepatitis C virus infections and Zika virus. Each area of the report includes a "What Medical Providers Can Do" section, to provide you with specific guidance on key steps to take to address health issues in our state. While *America's Health Rankings* ranked North Carolina 31<sup>st</sup> nationally in 2015, this ranking represents the highest ranking our state has achieved since such rankings began. While we have more work to do to improve the health of our citizens, some highlights of work completed over the past year include:

- The Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) submission of its waiver application for Medicaid reform in North Carolina.
- Passage of a bill to allow the State Health Director to write a standing order for Naloxone, to improve access to this life saving medication and to address the growing opioid epidemic.
- Passage of a needle exchange bill to also address the growing opioid epidemic.
- Completion of the state's five-year Perinatal Strategic Health Plan to address the burden of infant mortality in North Carolina. This plan will serve as a roadmap for improving the health of women and infants in our state.
- The naming of Danny Staley as the Division of Public Health (DPH) Director and the hiring of Kelly Kimple, MD as the new Section Chief for the DPH Women's and Children's Health Section.

We hope you will join us in our efforts to improve the health of all North Carolinians!

Sincerely,

  
Randall Williams, MD  
State Health Director



Danny Staley  
Director, Division of Public Health

